

The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



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Cover: Technical Sgt. Edward Jaramillo-Vasonez, a 125th Fighter Wing readiness specialist, instructs an airman on the proper wear of the chemical warfare suit during January 2003's ancilliary training. (Photo by Tech. Sgt.J. Larry Show)

Backcover: A 125th pilot prepares to take the plunge during pilot survival training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.. (125th Historical photo circa 1967)

Commander's Column

By Col. James A. Firth
125th Fighter Wing Commander

I want to start with saying 'thanks' by recognizing the simply superb contributions of every member of the 125th Fighter Wing in preparing to be ready to deploy for possible combat operations in Iraq.

As most members of the 125th are now aware, during January and February, we were told by both Air Combat Command and National Guard Bureau leaders that a number of our F-15 aircraft, as well as a large number of our people might be directed to deploy on short notice to the Middle East.

The performance of the entire wing in preparing for this possibility was absolutely outstanding! The preparations for this possible deployment were extremely complex, due to a number of factors, including the possible basing locations, the dynamic nature of the large-scale build-up of U.S. forces in the Middle East, the number of agencies involved, the requirement to operate in a strict Operations Security (OPSEC) environment, etc. Virtually every functional area in the 125th was heavily involved in preparations, and I want to thank everyone for the extra effort, the superb dedication, the great attitude and the simply outstanding results.

I am extremely proud of how the Wing responded to this challenge, all the many steps that were taken to ensure the

Wing was completely ready to perform if tasked, and the astounding number of challenges that were addressed and conquered. Although I apologize that I cannot mention everyone in this article that deserves recognition, I do want to mention a few of our people. First, I want to say 'thanks' to Maj. Sami Said for his truly incredible performance in overseeing the preparations.

Thanks to the entire maintenance complex for the huge effort, including going to 24-hour operations, that went into ensuring our aircraft were

"I also ask that each of you thank your family members, and your employers for their understanding and support over the past year..."

in top condition for combat. Also, thanks to the engine shop folks who worked on numerous off-days and performed over 30 engine changes to prepare for deployment.

Thanks also to the supply section for all the effort in making sure our people had all the necessary equipment to deploy, especially the work in obtaining chemical warfare suits.

Thanks also to the medical staff who faced a truly incredible workload performing all the medical preparations, including an unprecedented number of vaccinations, briefings, physicals, obtaining medication for deployment and offering services during extended hours.

Thanks to security forces for



the outstanding work doing such an important, tough, and sometimes thankless job, with longer shifts, and less time off due to the increased security deployment of Security Forces personnel since 9/11.

I also want to recognize the tremendous effort by the personnel and finance offices to support not only the 125th, but also the other Florida Air National Guard Geographically Separated Units (GSU's). Personnel and finance technicians supported, and continue to support, the equivalent of almost an entire additional wing during an unprecedented operations tempo, and I appreciate the great dedication and service!

A special thanks also to the people from the personnel and communications sections who manned their offices 24-hours a day. Thanks to the outstanding preparations by the entire 125th Operations Group, including the pilots, the life support and intelligence sections.

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I also ask each of you to thank your family members, and your employers for their understanding and support over the past year as well.

I know most of us were disappointed and frustrated when we were told by the Air Force in late February we would not deploy.

This desire to serve is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our people. This decision was not based on our capability or preparation as a unit. The 125th is one of the most respected F-15 units in the entire Air Force, and I ask that each of you trust and support the decisions of Air Force leadership.

The war on terrorism is far from over, and I feel confident the 125th will play a key role in the months ahead. In whatever role we are asked to play, I know we'll set a new standard of performance! I also want to point out that currently, a number of 125th people are deployed in support of

Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, including personnel from security forces, services, logistics, public affairs, the medical squadron, and there are other small groups who may deploy as well.

Another very important event for the 125th Fighter Wing took place in February.

Congratulations to everyone that played a role in preparing for, and performing during the 125th, Det. 1 Alert Force Evaluation (AFE), which took place at Homestead ARS, Fla., Wednesday February 5th. 125 Det. 1 was rated **Outstanding!**

This is a tremendous accomplishment.

The Alert Force Evaluation inspection criteria are extremely demanding, and very few units are rated Outstanding. Over the past 2 years (2001 and 2002), only one of 14 units was rated Outstanding.

This rating would not have been possible without the contributions of many people. I want to recognize the superb

work by Maj. Bill Bair, Maj. Michael Birkeland, Master Sgt. Jerry Leach, and the entire Det 1 staff, as well as the tremendous contributions of a team of 125th maintenance people, led by Chief Master Sgt. Martin Teaster (including Chief Master Sgt. Jim Sumner, Master Sgt. Mike Davis, Master Sgt. Cheryl Shodd, Master Sgt. Ken Sexton, Tech. Sgt. Ron Harris, and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Souza) who conducted a staff assistance visit at Det 1 to help prepare for the inspection.

I also want to recognize the outstanding work done by the 125th pilots, Lt. Col. Bob Wetzel, and Maj. Sean Doughty, who flew the simulated active air mission associated with the inspection.

Finally, I want to thank all the 125th maintenance personnel for all they do every day to keep our aircraft in outstanding condition!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this achievement. Congratulations to Maj. Bair, and the entire group at 125th Det. 1!

Another recent, key event was the arrival of more than 30 Army personnel from the Florida Army National Guard that will augment our security forces. Please welcome these people, thank them for helping us and make them feel at home!

The next few months promise to be extremely challenging, interesting and rewarding times for the 125th.

As events unfold in the war on terrorism, and operations in Iraq, I feel confident the 125th will be called upon to play a key role in executing U.S. policy objectives.

In the months ahead, a new chapter of U.S. history will be written, as well as a new chapter in the history of the 125th. **Be ready!**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Chief Master Sgt. Michael A. Speed braces as Maj. Pamela Y. Blunt, from the 125th Medical Squadron, administers the small pox vaccination. Medical personnel worked overtime to prepare for the Operation Southern Watch deployment.

Army troops help guard the 125th



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Public Affairs

There's a new look at the front gate these days.

Of course, it's not apparent until you glance up at the person scanning your ID card and see the words U.S. Army emblazoned on his or her uniform.

Soldiers from the Florida Army National Guard began their one-year tour of duty here, and around the state, in February.

The new 'look' is part of an agreement be-

tween the Army and the Air Force.

More than 9,000 Army National Guard soldiers will augment the security forces personnel at 163 Air Force and Air National Guard bases around the country.

In Florida more than 600 Florida Army National Guard soldiers were assigned to six bases in the state. Of those 600, 33 are stationed at the 125th.

Soldiers from the 146th Signal Battalion in Jacksonville began their tour of duty at the 125th Feb. 26 after spending two-weeks of intense training and in-processing at Fort Stewart, Ga. The soldiers, who will spend the next year conducting vehicle searches, perimeter patrols, and will work at the front gates checking identification, went through a customized course prior to their arrival.

Once here, they were further trained on topics such as weapon safety, guard mount, and restricted area procedures before they were allowed to begin their duties. Yet, as with any new line of work, the learning never ends."

"They're training really never stops," said Senior Master Sgt. Gennaro Lepore.

"They were capable of doing the job by the time

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Security forces gets visit from Sergeant Major of the Army

By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa
FLNG Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Soldiers and airmen pulling security at an Air National Guard facility in northeast Florida were reminded recently of the importance of their force protection mission.

Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack Tilley, the top enlisted soldier in the United States Army, met with Florida National Guard personnel on duty at the Jacksonville International Airport April 5, thanking them for their service and challenging them to be vigilant in their security mission. Eighteen soldiers spent a few moments with

Tilley, discussing everything from pay issues and family support, to the status of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The informal afternoon stop was part of Tilley's three-day conference with senior members of the Florida Army National Guard.

The Air Force protection mission is an example of two services working together in a spirit of cooperation to ensure fairness and a balanced distribution of troops to accomplish assigned missions of our armed forces. In this case, the Army has the expertise and resources necessary to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Sgt. Major of the Army Jack Tilley speaks to a group of security augmentees during a visit to the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Fla.

help ensure the security of national defense resources.

Guardmembers deal with the letdown of not being deployed

By Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain

I really enjoyed writing and sending weekly *Chaplain's Notes* to you while on active duty following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorists attacks on our nation.

Even now I consider those 12 months of serving with you as one of the best years of my life.

I was so proud of how quickly our unit prepared and how ready we were for whatever contingency that might confront our nation.

Do you remember how you felt after that first week of intensive preparations for follow on attacks?

I do! I am grateful to God we were not called upon to respond to additional attacks and that there was no further loss of life or property.

However, in a way that only those of us who wear military uniforms can understand, I shared your sense of let down when immediacy and urgency gave way to patience and vigilance.

It was like going through summer football practices only to have the season canceled!

Well, I understand it has happened again.

Many of our members are not being deployed as they had planned and prepared. No doubt we can all identify with

and appreciate the difficult life of a yo-yo, i.e., *no sooner than you think you are getting somewhere you find yourself heading back home.*

How should we respond when the rug is pulled out from under our feet?

Let me encourage you to consider the following:

1. **Recognize** that feeling confused, discouraged, frustrated, etc. under these circumstances is normal.

2. **Realize** you still have important work to do here.

3. **Remember**, your family and friends are not to blame for the change in your schedule. Do not take your disappointment out on them!

“...no sooner than you think you are getting somewhere you find yourself heading back home...”

In Genesis 22 God called upon Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Abraham responded faithfully and obediently to God

as he prepared to offer his son just as God had ordered.

However, God never intended for Abraham to complete the sacrifice.

He only wanted to see if Abraham was ready and willing to do whatever was asked of him.

When the time came for Isaac to be killed, God provided a substitute.

Once again, those who prepared to deploy responded to our country's call in the finest tradition of the Minutemen.

You stepped up, did what was necessary and got ready to go.

That you were not needed at this time is not an indictment of you or our unit.

However, it is a testament to your readiness and to our resilience as a unit that you were prepared and ready to do whatever was asked of you.

That you were ready and willing to do whatever was asked of you is the true measure of your character and competence.

Be comforted by the knowledge that you are ready for anything.

Keep your head up, keep your hands

busy, keep your heart strong and keep on being the benchmark for other Guard units to follow.



Attention All Motorcyclists



Photo by Master Sgt. Lea-An Steiner

Senior Master Sgt. Keith Cooper, 125th Communications Flight, looks at one of the motorcycles entered in last years inaugural Bike Drill Weekend.

On Saturday of May's drill your Chaplain Service will sponsor our second Annual 125th "Bike Drill Weekend."

To participate, drive your motorcycle to drill on May 3, 2003 and park in front of the dining facility. Follow the AF and Base motorcycle rules. Operator and any

passenger must wear a protective helmet. Riders must wear brightly colored or contrasting vest or jacket as an outer upper garment during the day and reflective garment during the night. Outer upper garment will be clearly visible and not covered.

Please wear long sleeved shirts or jackets, full-fingered motorcycle gloves or mittens, and long trousers.

That's it! Just ride your bike to drill, park in the designated area and follow the rules.

We will encourage base personnel to vote on the favorite:

- **Harley**
- **Non-Harley Cruiser**
- **Non-Harley Sport Bike**
- **Specialty Bike, Trike, etc.**

Blue ribbons will be awarded to the winners!

The event will be postponed if the weather forecast is predicting a 30% or greater chance of rain. For further explanation of the rules, or for more information, contact Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson at 904-741-7035 during business hours or 904-292-2916, after business hours.

Ready For Anything

125th prepares for the unknown

By Tech. Sgt. Julie Fischer
125th Readiness Office

You are in a combat zone. A voice bellows over the 'Giant Voice' PA system... **"Alarm Red, MOPP Four"**

Do you:

- A.** Freeze and do nothing.
- B.** Have no idea what Alarm Red Red, MOPP 4' means.
- C.** Grab a mop because building four needs a spill cleaned up.
- D.** Without hesitation, don the appropriate gear and take cover, knowing you can rely on the training you have received.

Those who attended January's ancillary training surely know the answer is 'D.'

January's ancillary training provided everyone in the Wing the opportunity to participate in hands-on training and field exercises at Camp Tootsie, the 125th's field training area.

"We tried to tailor the briefing to what they would expect in a forward deployed environment..."

Tech. Sgt. Alvin W. Pollard

The three-day training event briefed members on Explosive

Ordnance Disposal (EOD), self-aid and buddy care and chemical and biological warfare defense.

During a majority of the exercise, the trainees were required to wear the chemical suit as they made their way through the various stations

completing such tasks as operating the M291 Personal Decontamination Kit, using the M8 paper to test for chemicals, plotting on a grid map, and identifying and marking UXO's (Un - exploded Ordnance's).

The use of alarms, flags, and the 'Giant Voice' PA system, created a sense of urgency and realism.

"It was different than being in a classroom," said Senior Airman Justin Elliott, 125th Maintenance Squadron. "Being in a field environment made the entire experience more realistic."

The field environment helped bring a sense of urgency to the Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR) briefing that informed members of the different types of ordnance (bombs) they should expect to come across.

"We tried to tailor the briefing to what they would expect in a forward deployed environment," according to Tech. Sgt. Alvin W. Pollard, an EOD specialist.

After the briefing, unit members were taken out to



Photo by Master Sgt. Lea-An Steiner

Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Black applies pressure to a simulated abdominal wound while Master Sgt David Hines applies the dressing on. Black and Hines are self-aid and buddy care instructors with the 125th Medical Squadron. Demonstrations such as this one were performed during the ancillary training in January.

the field to identify the different types of ordnance they might encounter in the real world.

After the EOR briefing, the members moved on to the self-aid and buddy care class, led by Capt. Stacy L. Beeson, OIC for the self-aid and buddy care program of the 125th Medical Squadron.

"Unlike sitting in a classroom, being out in the field made the students feel more comfortable with the material, said Beeson. "They (the students) asked more questions and seemed to be more involved than they are when in the classroom."

The class stressed the importance of using whatever is on hand to deal with an emergency.

"Trying to simulate that in a classroom is OK but doing it in the field makes it more real for them," said Beeson. Before the day was over, Wing members also processed through a Contamination Control Area (CCA).

For many, it was the first time they had processed through a CCA. "I was surprised at the level of detail involved in the steps required to process through a CCA.

It was great to be able to experience it firsthand. It really gave you a sense of how it will be in the real world," said Senior



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry J. Show

A 125th member dons a chemical suit during January's ancillary training at Camp Tootsie, the 125th's field training site.

Airman Jaron Howell, from the 125th Civil Engineer squadron, who participated in the training in December when it was set up for the Wing's full-time personnel.

The ancillary training was built upon the foundation of classroom training, but it gave unit members an opportunity to experience realistic scenarios and accomplish tasks while in MOPP Four that is usually not done in the classroom.

"There is a tremendous difference in accomplishing tasks while in MOPP Four.

During this field training, many people realized how difficult even the simplest of tasks can be," said 1st Lt. Brian Vitetta, readiness officer.

"One of our primary goals in Readiness," added Vitetta, "is to instill in every airman on base the skills necessary to survive in a chemical or biological environment. Especially in this day and age, it is becoming increasingly important to achieve that goal. The possibility of a chemical or biological attack exists, and we all need to be fully prepared. This training takes us one step closer."

From the Cold War to the War on Terror: **125th Fighter Wing protects the skies over America**

*By Senior Airman Stephen Hudson
HQ FLNG Public Affairs Office*

Life can change in an instant. In the fast-paced, adrenaline-filled world of fighter aircraft, when the shrill sound of the alert horn pierces the air the pilots and crew have only minutes to launch two planes into the sky.

Pilots who sit alert are the nation's first line of defense when the alarm sounds signaling an unknown threat to U.S. airspace.

Jolted from their respite these pilots can be called on in any weather and at any time.

They must answer. In a pilot's mind they do not know what lies on the other side of the horizon, said Col. Alan Rutherford, Director of Operations for the Florida Air National Guard.

It could be a plane loaded with drugs or it could be a hijacked airliner.

Each possible threat must be responded to. Today F-15s from



Photo by Lt. Col. (Ret) Chris N. Michalak

An F-16 Falcon from the 125th escorts a Russian Bear Bomber that it intercepted off the coast of Florida during the Cold War.

the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing stand ready to answer the call over America's skies in the wake of the turmoil of Sept. 11, 2001.

The mission of air sovereignty is nothing new to the men and women of the

125th who have protected the southeastern United States from the start of the Cold War to the current War on Terrorism.

The 125th pilots, who have flown more than 1,400 hours of combat air patrols over the southeastern United States since Sept. 11, 2001, execute the same mission the pilots of the 125th Fighter Interceptor Group did during the Cold War.

From the time the Wing picked up the alert mission in the 1950s to the fall of the Soviet Union, the 125th escorted Russian Bear Bombers and MiGs along Florida's coast.

"We had a lot of scrambles in those days," said retired Col. Terry Biggerstaff, former 125th commander. "We protected the southern tip and we could count on four or five scrambles – maybe more – per month and that was more than any alert



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

An F-15 Eagle sits alert at the 125th Det. 1 in Homestead ARB, Fla.

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outfit in the United States got at that time.

That was just the proximity to Cuba and the Russian involvement that gave us that opportunity."

Biggerstaff added that Russian Bear bombers would come down the Icelandic gap and were picked up and escorted by other pilots until the 125th took over the escort from Jacksonville to Cuba.

Today the pilots of the 125th patrol the skies and the missions are not too different, but the stakes are still

incredibly high.

"Compared to today as opposed to the Cold War, say, in the mid-80s, we were training to intercept Bear bombers and cruise missiles," said Maj. Richard Dill, an F-15 pilot with the 125th.

"Today, where we train to intercept those types of targets, we also train to intercept hijacked aircraft," added Dill.

"We are sitting ready; and ready to go intercept anything that may be of concern."

The F-15's of the 125th are only a moment's notice from

being airborne once again to stop the unthinkable.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union until late last March the Wing maintained an alert detachment at Homestead Air Reserve Base in south Florida, that can respond to an unknown threat. As late as March 2003 planes from the detachment scrambled to intercept a plane of Cuban defectors.

The alert mission has since moved back to Jacksonville where the pilots now wait for the alarm to sound signaling another threat to U.S airspace.

Det. 1 earns 'oustanding' rating during AFE

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Public Affairs*

The 125th Fighter Wing's alert detachment, Det.1, earned an "outstanding" on a recent no-notice Alert Force Evaluation (AFE).

Each year North American Aerospace Defense Command inspects the sector and each of its fighter alert aircraft sites to determine their ability to perform their NORAD air sovereignty mission.

The 9/11 attacks and their aftermath made it only too clear that aerospace control comprises a crucially important piece of U.S. security.

Before the alert mission moved back to Jacksonville in March, the 125th maintained the NORAD Air Defense Alert site at Homestead AB, Fla.

"The AFE is an important test to demonstrate our ability to respond at a moment's notice," said Maj. Bill "Yogi" Bair, Det. 1 commander. "This test validated our ability to take action."

The initial rating was

projected to be "excellent," largely due to discrepancies between the detachment and the command post that is operated by the 482nd Fighter Wing, the host unit at Homestead.

"After further review, the rating was changed to 'outstanding'," according to Col. James A. Firth, 125th Fighter Wing commander. "The Inspector General (IG) concluded the 482nd Command Post would not be rated because they do not fall directly under NORAD."

Touted as the busiest alert site in the country, 125th pilots who rotate down to the detachment were more than prepared for the AFE.

"Alert Force Evaluations are not something a pilot can



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Major Sean P. Doughty, climbs into the cockpit of the 125th's F-15 Eagle. Doughty was one of the pilots who manned the F-15 during the recent Alert Force Evaluation (AFE).

prepare for in the sense of "oh this is test'," said Major Sean P. Doughty, a 125th pilot who flew the F-15 Eagle during the AFE.

"We treated it like a real world situation," said Doughty. "The only thing we might have changed is that we made sure we had the right t-shirt on."

Operations Security

By Maj. Steven R. Hilsdon
125th Fighter Wing OPSEC Officer

If you recall, during the last issue of the Eagle's Eye we started annual OPSEC training, which covered **Module 1: Operations Security**.

This Issue we will continue Module 2 of 4, *the OPSEC Process*.

The OPSEC process is designed to determine how adversaries could collect information regarding a specific operation, activity, or project so that countermeasures can be implemented to prevent exploitation of associated critical information.

The OPSEC process is often described as having five steps.

These steps do not have to be followed in a rigid, sequential order, and this provides flexibility in the process.

Identify Critical Information

Critical information is developed from analyzing both friendly and adversarial strategies to achieve their objectives.

For example, a drug smuggler needs to know when the U.S. Coast Guard patrol will be off duty.

Although the patrol dates could be classified and well protected, the smuggler could still discover these dates by exploiting a potential critical piece of information such as when the ship places orders with local merchants for supplies and when they are delivered.

This helps the smuggler because analysis of the supply information facilitates the determination of when the ship won't be on patrol, thus giving the smuggler a decisive advantage.

He has a window of time to conduct his operations, and reduces the patrol's mission effectiveness to zero.

Analyze the Threat

The more we know about an adversary's capability, the better we can judge how and why he may collect the information that he needs.

In our smuggling example, the smuggler represents the threat.

He has the intent to conduct his operations while the U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat is in port, and he also has the capability to analyze and exploit information and vulnerabilities associated with the ship's supply operations.

Threat requires both intent and capability. If one or the

The more we know about an adversary's capability, the better we can judge how and why he may collect the information that he needs.

other is not present, there is no threat.

Analyze Vulnerabilities

A vulnerability exists when critical information is susceptible to exploitation. Examples of vulnerabilities include: *lack of training, use of non-secure communications, publishing VIP itineraries, and poor system design*.

An indicator includes any detectable activity and/or information that, when looked at by itself or in conjunction with something else, points to a vulnerability or critical information item that can be exploited by an adversary.



Examples of indicators include uniforms in unusual places, cars in a parking lot, and late night meetings.

To analyze vulnerabilities requires enacting a different scenario for different adversaries, because each adversary may have different intentions and capabilities.

Knowledge of your organization's mission, success criteria, and operations, in conjunction with the other OPSEC steps, impact your capability to analyze your vulnerabilities.

Also, remember to keep indicators in mind.

Whenever an organization plans and conducts a new activity, associated administrative, physical, observable, and technical actions take place - actions that are new and could tip off the adversary to the new activity.

Although indicators are not vulnerabilities by themselves, they can point to or reveal vulnerabilities or critical information.

Assess the Risk

Risk is the likelihood that an adversary will gather and exploit your critical information.

Risk assessment is a deci-

sion-making step because you decide if a countermeasure needs to be assigned to a vulnerability based on the level of risk.

You assess a vulnerability in conjunction with the threat's intent and capability - is he willing to exploit your vulnerability and does he have the means to do so?

Then, you determine the impact this would have on your mission if the threat was successful in exploiting the vulnerability.

This determines the level of risk. We use two basic means of assessing risk.

The first is the intuitive reasoning approach, which is done alone and based on personal ex-

perience.

The second is the committee approach, in which several people look at the same problem. The committee approach is the preferred method.

Apply Counter Measures

A countermeasure is anything that effectively reduces an adversary's ability to exploit vulnerabilities.

Countermeasures don't need to be exotic or expensive; they can be thought of simply as smarter ways of doing a particular task.

The development of a countermeasure focuses directly on the vulnerability it is designed to protect.

Following a cost-benefit

analysis, countermeasures are implemented in priority order to protect the weaknesses that represent the most significant impact on your mission, operation, or activity.

Frequently a combination of low cost countermeasures provides the best overall protection.

All possibilities should be considered, and the potential effectiveness of each should be evaluated against a specific vulnerability, or against multiple vulnerabilities.

The bottom line is: always weigh the cost versus the benefit.

As always feel free to contact me with any of your OPSEC issues at 904-741-7170.

Analyze the threat

What you need to identify:

- **What the adversary already knows.**
- **What the adversary needs to know to be successful.**
- **The adversary's intent and capability.**
- **Potential adversaries to your mission, operations, or activity.**
- **Where the adversary is likely to look to obtain the information.**

Analyze vulnerabilities

Indicators generally fall into one of three categories:

- **Indicators that establish a profile**
- **Indicators that show a deviation**
- **Tip-off indicators**

Assess the risk

Risk has three components:

- **Threat is the adversary's intent and capability,**
- **Vulnerability is the weakness that provides the adversary's opportunity, and**
- **Impact is the potential negative consequences inflicted upon your mission.**



Chief's Words

*Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski
125th Fighter Wing Command Chief*

While looking over some spreadsheets recently I noticed we are approaching one of those times when a large number of our senior non-commissioned officers will be retiring.

Over the next five years about 75% of our chiefs and 40% of our senior master sergeants will be at retirement age.

As they retire, the promotion opportunities will be numerous throughout the enlisted ranks.

Are you ready?

If not, don't put it off any longer.

If you can attend an in-residence Professional Military Education (PME) course start working with your training manager to find some class dates.

I highly encourage, if at all possible, attending the in-residence PME courses.

They have excellent instructors and the interaction in-residence PME courses offer cannot be duplicated by the correspondence courses.

If you can't attend in-residence then order your NCO Academy course 6, required for promotion to master sergeant or course 12 for senior master sergeant.

These correspondence courses average over a year to complete so don't put it off.

You may miss out when the promotion opportunities come.

Most important, talk to your supervisors.

Let them know of your intent to move up the senior NCO ranks.

Ask them what they are looking for when they select someone for promotion.

Also, ask them for feedback on your current performance and see what else you can do to make yourself a viable candidate for that next promotion.

Set yourself a personal goal to be the next technical sergeant, master sergeant, senior master sergeant or chief in your section. Start preparing today for tomorrow's possibilities.

Security Issues

*Technical Sgt. Mark J. Perry
125th Fighter Wing Antiterrorism
Coordinator*

Who would have ever dreamed that we would be seeing a high terrorist threat level right here in our own homeland. This type of threat was only seen in countries like Yemen, Syria, etc. Unfortunately we are now faced with living in an environment where the threat of terrorism is comparable to a hurricane or tornado watch. For instance, on television, we are advised daily to make preparations for possible terrorist attack. In droves, Americans are stocking up on fresh water, and setting up a 'safe room' with plastic and duct tape, just like they would for bad weather conditions.

This is the fear factor effect terrorist organizations want to create. The Department of Defense defines terrorism as the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear. It is intended to coerce and intimidate governments or societies in the

pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological.

Though we must not ignore these warnings from the Homeland Security and State Department, we should not however let fear dictate how we live.

Just as we can take measures to prepare or protect us from natural disasters we can also take actions to deter or prevent a terrorist act against us. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have given all military members and their families guidance to combat terrorism.

Keeping a low profile in public places is the first priority.

Avoid bringing attention to yourself especially when in uniform. Also, avoid overt publicity and stay away from civil disturbances and demonstrations.

Another way to accomplish this is by being unpredictable.

Make the effort to vary your daily routines such as the route to and from work.

Always let people close to you know where you are going, what you'll be doing, and when you will return.

Finally, be alert. Watch for anything that appears to be suspicious or out of place.

If you feel you are being followed, go to a safe haven such as a police station, hospital or fire department. Never confront a suspicious person or persons.

Immediately report all incidents no matter how trivial you feel they may be to your civilian law enforcement agency or security forces.

Fitness center gets extensive make-over, re-opens after month-long closure

By Capt. Ray Beeson
125th Maintenance Squadron

The fitness center located on the second floor of the Hangar is now completely renovated and ready to use.

The 125th Aircraft Generation Equipment shop sandblasted and painted the old weights and dumbbells, then added a protective coat of "bed liner" material.

Refurbishing the old equipment added a nice new look to the facility and to the new dumbbells and plate weights.

The facility is now equipped with a new bike, elliptical rider, and treadmill. In addition to the weight training



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

The fitness center before the renovation project began in February 2003.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Technical Sgt. Mitchell Mead, from the 125th Maintenance Squadron, uses the new, Cybex dead-lift while Tech. Sgt. Jeffery J. Cogan, 125th Aircraft Generation Squadron, rests during a workout at the renovated fitness center.

equipment that was refurbished, new Cybex equipment was installed to include: a squat press, power cage, lat pull down, seated curl, t-bar row, cable cross over, several adjustable benches, fly machine, and a leg extension/leg curl.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who provided the time and muscle during the removal and setup. Specifically, thanks to the 125th Civil Engineer Squadron for their help and supplies, the 125th Communications Flight for phone and cable set-up.

Anyone who wishes to use the fitness center must be briefed on equipment use and the rules. Please call any of the personnel listed for a briefing. Since we have all new equipment care must be taken to ensure safe operation and maintenance of a clean, organized environment.

Fitness 'Briefer'	Ext.
Maj. Derrick Cooper	7410
Capt. Ray Beeson	7073
Master Sgt. Rob Swann	7221
Tech. Sgt. Jeff Cogan	7271
Tech. Sgt. Mitch Mead	7311
Tech. Sgt. Curt Hasan	7210
Staff Sgt. Clay Green	7333
Staff Sgt. Kevin Russell	7444

In Loving Memory



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Staff Sgt. Clayton C. Clark

Dec. 1, 1974-Feb. 2003

"Army" from page 5...

they were put on post but each day they learn something new. It's like that with any job."

The soldiers were brought here to "backfill the personnel we are losing because of the demobilization," according to Capt. Glenn S. Fannin, security forces commander.

"The people we mobilized after 9/11 are returning to their civilian occupations," said Fannin.

All of the soldiers are from the local area, which makes the transition a little easier. Specialist James V. Chrispin, a medical insurance specialist in his civilian career, is glad he is stationed here.

"It definitely makes it easier not having to pick up and go as with most mobilizations," said Chrispin.

"I'm enjoying it out here."

For Just A Moment

by Brenda Penepent

For just a moment
I'm sure I saw
a flicker of light ahead.
Perhaps it was your smile.
Though past now, remembered,
in my heart
like the small sound of
a butterfly passing by.
No night
is so dark
that can not be brightened
with memories of you.
Raindrops carry along
your blessings from heaven
to wash away my tears
and bring me hope anew.

LEGION OF MERIT

The Legion of Merit award was presented to Brig. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, assistant adjutant general of Florida for the Florida Air National Guard March 1, 2003 (pictured with his wife, Gretchen).

The Legion of Merit is awarded to persons whose contributions provide a lasting effect to the Department of Defense.

This is the second time in the history of the Florida Air National Guard that the Legion of Merit was awarded to a person actively serving, and was approved by both the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

According to the citation accompanying the Legion of Merit, Titshaw's leadership directly contributed to numerous outstanding inspection ratings of units throughout Florida.

The readiness of these units was tested after Sept. 11, 2001, when they responded immediately to Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, performing combat air patrol, communications, and battle command control missions essential for security within the Southeast Region of the United States and around the world.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Band of 'angels' lends support during hard, trying times

By Ms. Beth Eifert
125th Family Readiness

On a visit to what I thought was another standard, family support meeting, I confidently concluded that there are, indeed, angels in our midst.

I recently came across these giving souls who are the leaders of the new Military Family Support Group sponsored by the Red Cross. This group is run by volunteers who have no other relation to us and our Guard unit than a patriotic heart and a compassionate soul.

Nevertheless, they tirelessly give of their time every Tuesday evening to provide support, comfort and understanding to those of us who are affected by the recent deployments.

Since its inception Feb. 18, I've attended every meeting, along with various family members

from the 125th, and I have yet to be disappointed. The group is open to family members from all different branches of service.

The meetings are facilitated by Kathy, a bubbly yet sympathetic mental health professional who runs a successful independent practice in her "real life."

Kathy is accompanied by any one of several registered nurses (RNs) who co-facilitate the group with the nurturing pragmatism that only nurses can provide.

Our guides allow us to steer the discussion and it alternates between assertions of confident independence, and agonizing admissions of fear and loneliness.

Cassie, one of the RNs, brings home-baked goodies each week which comfort the heart as well as the stomach. She and Marcia (the Chief Operating Office of the Northeast Red Cross Chapter), provide childcare for those of us who bring our children.

After an evening of crafts, rousing rounds of the game "I Spy," and the sampling of some of Cassie's gooey-chocolatey creations, it's all I can do to pull the kids away.

Each week I return, although my husband is not



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jason T. Bailey

A Senior Master Sergeant from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., embraces a small child while her family members are repatriated from Turkey into the United States at the Charleston International Airport in Charleston, S.C., March 22, 2003.

yet deployed. One reason I attend is to be proactive during these uncertain times.

Another reason is to show solidarity with other 125th families who are affected by the recent activations.

A third and more compelling reason I attend is because I feel the need to give these volunteers the opportunity to fulfill their calling. They sacrifice their time for us and I don't want to deprive them of that blessing. However, I'm not completely altruistic.

A final reason I attend is so that, in the middle of these tough times, I can experience a little heaven on earth and be close to angels.

Contact Information for the Red Cross Northeast Florida Chapter

751 Riverside Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32204-3335
Phone: 904-358-8091
Fax: 904-791-9236

Web site:

www.nefloridaredcross.org

125th Family Readiness Website:
www.fangfamilies.org

125th Honor Guard pays respects to one of its own



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert L. Southwell

*By Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain*

How many times has someone seen you in public wearing your uniform and remarked how grateful they were to have fine, upstanding folks like you serving in our United States ... NAVY?

For too long, the 125th Fighter Wing of the Florida Air National Guard has been one of the best kept secrets in town.

Most people around Jacksonville do not know that the 125th Base Honor and Color Guards regularly represent us at funerals, memorials and a host of special patriotic services and activities.

The 125th Honor Guard honored one of its own March 9 during a funeral service at Memorial Gardens Cemetery near Normandy Blvd.

The honor guard folded and presented an American flag to Mrs. Jeanie Southwell, in

honor of her husband Lt. Col. Robert L. Southwell.

Southwell, who retired in 1973,

was the commander of the 159th Fighter Squadron and a member of the team who took first place in the 1958 U.S. Air Force weapons meet, William Tell award, at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

The 125th Honor Guard had the opportunity to return his service, on behalf of the unit, by rendering the proper honors at his funeral.

Mrs. Southwell and her family expressed their gratitude to each member of the honor guard.

From flag folds and rifle volleys at funeral services to the presentation of our colors at special occasions, the Air Force's Base Honor

and Color Guard's always impress their audiences.

"The role of the Air National Guard is to guard the air space of our nation. We do that with exceptional distinction. No one questions our commitment or our competency to do that job," said Major Michael Prinzi, co-OIC (Officer in Charge) of the base honor guard.

"However, when they see us performing honor guard duties in the community, they see first hand the honor and pride we have for what we do," added Prinzi.

The honor guard and color guard's performances are a symbol of our honor.

Their unique integration of professionalism with a personal touch makes them a credit to the 125th and an asset to the community.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Brigadier Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw (left) watches as the 125th Honor Guard folds the Flag. Titshaw presented the Flag to Mrs. Jeanie Southwell shortly thereafter.

125th members flex more than their finance muscles at... **TOP DOLLAR**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Madden

Master Sgt. Guido Paternoster gives Tech. Sgt. Daniel Sebring a hand by holding a beam as Sebring maneuvers his way through the obstacle course at Top Dollar. The 6-day competition took place at the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) in Gulfport, Miss.

*By Master Sgt. Guido Paternoster
125th Fighter Wing Finance*

GULFPORT, Miss.—In a tent located in a foreign country, personnel gather around the outside of the finance tent....

Finance tent?

In real world contingencies, the last thing that may be prevalent in the hearts and minds of military personnel are allotments, foreign currency concerns, contracting issues and the like.

A Florida Air National Guard Finance and Contracting team from the 125th recently completed a war skills training exercise at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

Top Dollar, a physically and mentally demanding competition, puts finance and contracting specialists in a bare-base environment simulated in a foreign country.

It requires them to complete scenarios typically found during real-world contingencies.

The six-day Top Dollar exercise is designed “to prepare to go to war,” taking the finance and contracting personnel through all aspects of a real world deployment, according to Maj. Roger A. Burkett, 125th comptroller.

Training included completing ordinary tasks in a strange environment.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Mark Penwell, “they basically had to do what they would normally do at the base. The only difference was the environment,” 125th contracting specialist and an evaluator at the exercise.

Each team had to set up an office, establish communications and connectivity, and brief the commander on funds issues.

Other tasks included securing funds in a tent, negotiating with foreign vendors to purchase everyday items such as food and lodging, and setting up a bank account in a foreign country.

And, to compound the situation, the teams had to deal with constantly changing threat conditions and Mission Oriented Protection Posture, or MOPP, levels.

The team members from the FLANG were Master Sgt. Guido Paternoster (team leader), Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Madden as the contracting representative, and Tech. Sgt. Juan Deya and Tech Sgt. Dan Sebring, who worked in payroll and accounting during the exercise.

The combined team participated with nine other teams from eighteen guard units throughout the country, some from as far as Alaska.

Up Close & Personal

School kids get hands-on lesson in Air Guard 101

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Public Affairs

Children from two local area schools turned in their pencils and notebooks and got a hands-on lesson in Air Guard 101 in March.

On two separate visits, the pre-school through first graders saw first hand the inner workings of the 125th Fighter Wing.

Arriving by school bus and mini-van, kids from Holy Spirit Catholic School and Community Connections, came face to

face with bomb sniffing robots, firefighters, M-16's and even a fighter jet.

"The kids loved it," said Twanda T. Smith, Children's Services Coordinator for Community Connections, a non-profit public assistance agency.

"They especially liked climbing up the stairs to stand next to the cockpit of the F-15," said Smith.

Ten children from the pre-school at Community Connections started

their day at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal where they met Lucky, the bomb sniffing robot or Remote Ordnance Neutralizing System (RONS).

They also got to see what EOD technicians, or *bomb squad guys* wear when they are looking for bombs.

Senior Airman Michael J. Beedham donned the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST), which is the latest and greatest chemical and



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Senior Airman Michael J. Beedham, an EOD specialist wearing the protective suit worn by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians, prepares to playfully lunge toward the onlooking pre-schoolers visiting the 125th. Demonstrations like this bring kids close up to things that they may normally be wary of.





Above: Staff Sgt. Michael Rosario, a firefighter from the 125th, helps a student from the Holy Spirit Catholic School put on a fire retardant jacket

Right: Captain Ray Beeson, 125th Maintenance officer, shows two Holy Spirit Catholic School students the cockpit of an F-15 fighter jet.

biological EOD suit used by the military.

He playfully lunged toward the children, eliciting giggles from the curious onlookers.

"Doing these kind of tours brings back into focus the reason we do this job," said Tech. Sgt. Alvin W. Pollard, 125th EOD technician.

"Seeing those kids reminds me why I am here," said Pollard.

During another visit, 50 children from the Holy Spirit Catholic School started their 125th adventure at the new fire station, where they tried on helmets and firefighter jackets, and watched as Staff Sgt. Bruce Loeb demonstrated the fire-fighting equipment.

"When we would ask young kids 'who wants to be a fireman,' nobody raises their hands like they did before 9/11," said Dr. John Luciano, principal of Holy Spirit, which is on Fort Caroline Road.

"A field trip like this helps us reassure children and help them not be afraid of the military and other risky occupations," said Luciano.

Both groups toured the F-15 Eagle, where Capt. Ray Beeson, 125th maintenance officer, and took the kids into the cockpits and shared with them the in's and out's of the aircraft. The kids also got to see the aircraft maintenance unit, the air traffic control room and security forces—where they were given personalized name badges and given a brief tour of the different weapons the security forces use at the base.

When the children came out for the field trip, the security level was raised and it amazed us that the 125th still took the time to show these youngsters around, said Luciano. "It was just a wonderful gesture," he said.



In the Spotlight

Major Jeff Sullivan

Major Jeff Sullivan joined the Florida Air National Guard in July 1977.

Up until the time he received his commission in 1991, Sullivan worked in the Non Destructive Inspection (NDI) section. Since his commissioning he has held several maintenance officer position and currently serves as the Logistic Management Officer. He is "known for serving as the Logistics Group commander's right hand.

"His 25 years of maintenance experience has been a vital part of the success of the entire maintenance complex," said Lt. Col. Ronald G. Corey, 125th Logistics Group commander. "If you want the job done with immaculate precision and attention to detail he's the right person for the job.

According to Corey, Sullivan has consistently proven his abilities with such major deployments as Operation Southern Watch, Operation Northern Watch, and the ever-changing Noble Eagle contingencies.

Sullivan lives in Orange Park, Fla., with his wife of 24 years, Kathy Sullivan.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Major Jeff Sullivan discusses the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection with Lt. Col. Ronald G. Corey, 125th Logistics Group commander.

Tech. Sgt. Michelle E. Hicks

Technical Sgt. Michelle Hicks, an information management specialist, joined the Florida Air National Guard in 1998 after leaving active duty.

She has a combined military total of close to 13 years of military experience. Currently on an AGR tour, Hicks is assigned to the Wing orderly room and wears many hats.

Along with her information management duties, she is currently cross training into personnel, is the unit training manager, and works with the first sergeant in dealing with various Wing issues.

In addition to her daily duties, she recently coordinated many of taskings involved with the Contemporary Base Issues course hosted by the Wing.

It's no wonder she recently was named as NCO of the Quarter.

"I can throw just about anything at Michelle and she'll handle it. She's so thorough and professional," said Lt. Col. Julia A. Kyrakis, wing executive officer.

"I can always count on her to get the job done."

Hicks lives in Mandarin, Fla. with her 5-year-old daughter, Khaliya.

She has a master's degree in human relations and plans on returning to school to earn a second degree in social work.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Technical Sgt. Michelle E. Hicks (right), 125th unit training manager, reviews the requirements for upgrade training with Staff Sgt. Raquel Roberts, an information manager for the 125th Public Affairs office.

Promotions

To Chief Master Sgt.

Victor A. Santiago
Michael A. Germain

To Senior Master Sgt.

Sheila C. Kirkland
Charles K. Owens
Joseph E. Mann

To Master Sgt.

David W. Hines
Edward Grassi
Mitchell S. Mead
Anna T. Elleseg
Morgan O. Stokes
Edward Buchanan
Terrilee V. Terrill

To Tech. Sgt

Robert D. Conley
Louis D. Ceragioli
Gary W. Holland
Adam M. Fisher
Jared Hudson
John D. Tally
Donald Shultz
Gary D. Mccance
Robert P. Schoch
Timothy J. Cogan
Gregory R. Linn

To Staff Sgt.

Craig J. Ebert
Christopher D. Henderson
Juan A. Orellana
Jeffrey Strazzere
Gregory S. Moss
George M. Noble
Jonathan L. Williams
Drapier R. Johnson
Hongan C. Pham
Jondra L. Smith
Robin L. Reynolds
Sherry A. Most
Charles W. Wilkie

To Senior Amn.

Jarrett L. Wilkinson
Daniel H. Gartland
Tyson W. Everett
Justin L. Elliot
Kristen R. Beahn

To Airman

Stephen L. Guess

Welcomes Farewells

SSgt Keith Rowe, 125 LS
SSgt Sheila D Mcglothlin, 125 LS
SrA Richard E. Dorgan, 125 CF
AIC Bryan W. Hunt, 125 OG
AIC Justin M. Odonoghue, 159 FS
SrA John Santiago, 125 MEDS
AIC Anthony M. Tuosto 125 MS
Amn Jeffrey W Leigh, 125 CES
SrA Louis J Coleman, 125 MS
SSgt Gary B Clay, Jr, 125 MS
SSgt Chuck L Ellison, 125 LS
SrA Nina M. McGowan, 125 FW
SrA Robert A Zeller, 125 MS

CMSgt James McIntyre
MSgt Donn Kirkland
MSgt Francis R Alessi Jr
MSgt Michael Cook
TSgt Roberto Sitjar, Jr.
TSgt Robert Collum Jr.
TSgt Loretta Draper
TSgt David Best
SSgt Raymond Arena
SSgt William Rogers
SSgt Bryan Lenk



Major Richard E. Bittner, 125th Public Affairs officer who recently returned from a 65-day tour to Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, briefs the 'media ground rules' to the crew of an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) and to Dr. Bob Arnot, MSNBC's special foreign correspondent March 5, 2003.

Arnot regularly reports from the front lines of the War on Terrorism and is getting behind-the-scenes access unlike any other American journalist covering the war.



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